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New Satellite Experiments Planned

The Library has awarded five contracts, totaling almost a half-million dollars, to initiate health education and health care delivery experiments utilizing NASA's Applications Technology Satellite-F. The ATS-F -- which will be powerful enough to relay audio, video, and data messages -- is scheduled to be launched in 1974. The Library's Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications will coordinate the project.

The experiments, to begin in 1974, are planned for remote regions of the Pacific Northwest (including Alaska) and the Rocky Mountain states, with limited experimentation in the Appalachian region. Since normal ground communication in remote areas is often highly unreliable and very costly because of geographic and climatic conditions, use of the new satellite is expected to provide the basis for a more effective means to bring health services to thousands.

It is hoped that the experiments will demonstrate that satellite communications can help forge stronger links between medical centers and isolated hospitals, physicians, and other health care agents. If the experiments prove successful, satellite communications could be used for televised undergraduate and continuing medical education programs, public health education, long-distance consultations between physicians or health aides and medical center specialists, and patient medical records systems.

Although the technology to operate a biomedical communications system via satellite is ordinarily considered complex, the new terminal equipment made possible by the powerful ATS-F will involve relatively little expense and equipment. To participate in the medical education programs, for example, a remotely located clinic or hospital would need only a television set and an antenna on the roof.

Consultation for health care personnel in relatively isolated areas is another important aspect of the project. By transmitting television, audio, and data information between an Alaskan Public Health Service hospital and a large medical center, the sophisticated advice of medical specialists can be brought immediately to an injured or sick Alaskan native hundreds of miles away. For example, voice consultation regarding a complicated fracture could be supplemented by transmission of x-rays.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
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The five contracts are as follows:

(1) A planning contract for $128,240 to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) to coordinate the detailed planning efforts in the Rocky Mountain states. Contributors to health planning will come from the state universities, regional medical programs, and other private and governmental organizations in the Rocky Mountain area. Experimental objectives will be defined, facilities and sites determined, target populations and program materials identified, and equipment specified.

(2) A planning contract for $138,26[illegible] to the University of Washington to participate in and coordinate the planning efforts in the Pacific Northwest. Contributors to this effort will be the Universities of Washington and Alaska, the Indian Health Service, and state and local organizations.

(3) Westinghouse Electric Company is to receive a planning contract for $67,588 to provide engineering support to the health planners. Activities will include matching health objectives with satellite capabilities, translating experimental objectives into equipment requirements, fitting the experiments within the time and information capacity constraints of the satellite, and assisting to define the facilities required at selected experimental sites.

(4,5) Two contracts totaling $116,483 will go to Hughes Aircraft Company for the development of satellite transmitting and receiving terminals. The terminals will be capable of transmitting and receiving high-quality television pictures and four audio channels. The four channels may be used for different languages or dialects to reach several population groups simultaneously.

The overall satellite project is being developed by the Department of HEW, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

HMD Acquires New Historical Materials

In recent months a number of notable acquisitions have been added to the collections in the History of Medicine Division.

Most outstanding is a manuscript written at Oxford in the middle of the 13th century. It is a collection of several medical texts, one of which, apparently unpublished, may be the work of the famous Robert Grosseteste. The manuscript is outstanding, too, for its 12 initials with illuminated miniatures depicting medical consultations, examinations, and lectures. Also added were a 14th century Spanish

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manuscript on vellum containing works of Mesue, a 15th century commentary on portions of Avicenna, and an 18th century collection of almost 1,000 medical recipes written in an extremely fine hand, many of them tested "by my Lady Dutchess" (of Portland?).

Another outstanding acquisition is a fine copy of the first edition (1637) of Descartes' *Discours de la méthode*, a work of fundamental importance on the philosophy and method of science.

John Graunt, 1620-1674, was one of the earliest English writers to recognize the importance of vital statistics and to use them in evaluating the social and economic conditions of the country. The Library has recently added the first edition of his *Natural and political observations...made upon the bills of mortality*, 1662, a milestone in demography and public health.

Of four incunabula acquired during the past year, perhaps the most interesting is the *Herbarius Latinus* printed in Louvain, Belgium, by Jan Veldener, circa 1485 (Goff H-60) and containing some 150 woodcuts of herbs with descriptions of their medicinal virtues.

Altogether, during the year ending June 30, NLM added over 700 books and theses printed before 1801 to its historical collection.

NLM Associates Named

Reporting to the Library early in September were the five young librarians who will participate in the 1972/73 NLM Associate Program. They are (from left) Miss Susan Kirkbride, Mr. Gary Byrd, Miss Becky Lyon, Miss Lillian Kozuma, and Miss Nancy Stiles.

Miss Kirkbride received a B. A. degree from Westminster College (1963) with a major in Biology Education, and an M.L.S. from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences in 1972. During the intervening years she worked in Pittsburgh as a biologist and research assistant. Mr. Byrd earned two degrees in English -- a B.A. from Rutgers University in 1967 and an M.A. from the University of Virginia in 1971 -- before receiving his M.L.S., with a minor in Public Health, from the University of Minnesota Library School in 1972. From June 1968 to January 1971, he served in Tunisia with the Peace Corps, and worked for ten months during that period as a volunteer interpreter on the Hospital Ship HOPE.

Miss Lyon attended Central Missouri State College, where she was awarded a B.S. in Biology Education, minoring in Library Science. The University of Illinois Graduate

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School of Library Science in Urbana, where she held an NLM Fellowship in Biomedical Library Training, awarded her the M.S.L.S. in 1972. Miss Kozuma received a B.A. in Political Science from Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, in 1963, spending five months at the London School of Economics during her senior year. After earning an M.P.A. from Syracuse University in 1964, she held a series of positions with Federal agencies before spending two years at the University of Southern California, holding a Traineeship from NLM, in a special two-year program in the management of health information systems. She received an M.S.L.S. in 1972.

Miss Stiles earned a B.A. in English from Barnard College in 1971, and an M.L.S. from the Columbia University School of Library Service in 1972.

The Library's 12-month Associate Program provides supervised training through a well-rounded curriculum in modern medical library science. This year's program is divided into two phases. The first provides an introduction to all program areas of the Library through lectures, seminars, demonstrations, and practical experience. Phase two offers several project assignments in the areas of each Associate's special interests, including projects for developing operational and management procedures. Throughout the year, the Associates may visit area medical and research libraries and participate in local meetings and conferences of professional organizations.

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